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# INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIORITY PLACE INITIATIVE – YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

Yukon Science Webinar Series #2  
May 26, 2020



Canada 

# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Overview

- The Pan-Canadian Approach  
Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada
- Priority Places
- Yukon South Beringia
  - Goals
  - Partners
  - Partner's Initial Thoughts and Ideas
  - Ranked Issues
  - Timeline (2019-2021)
  - Governance
- Next Steps



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

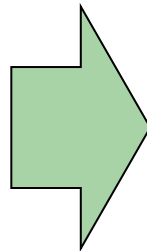
## Pan-Canadian Approach

A new foundation for action to accelerate progress, align efforts, and guide collaboration

### Strategic shift:

#### Status Quo Conservation

Species-based  
Site-based  
Opportunistic, reactive  
Inconsistent  
frameworks, metrics,  
terminologies  
Costly, duplicative



#### Integrated Conservation

Multiple species  
Ecosystem-based  
Coordinated, strategic  
Common frameworks,  
metrics, language  
Cost-efficient



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Pan-Canadian Approach

### Implementation

Engagement, action planning and co-investments  
Guided by new principles

### Results and Benefits

Better Conservation Outcomes for more Species at Risk  
Improved Return on Investment  
Increased Co-benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems

### Investments

The Canada Nature Fund will provide a federal investment of \$500 million over 5 years to leverage \$1 billion overall



Spiked Saxifrage, *Micranthes spicata*  
Photo Credit: Syd Cannings



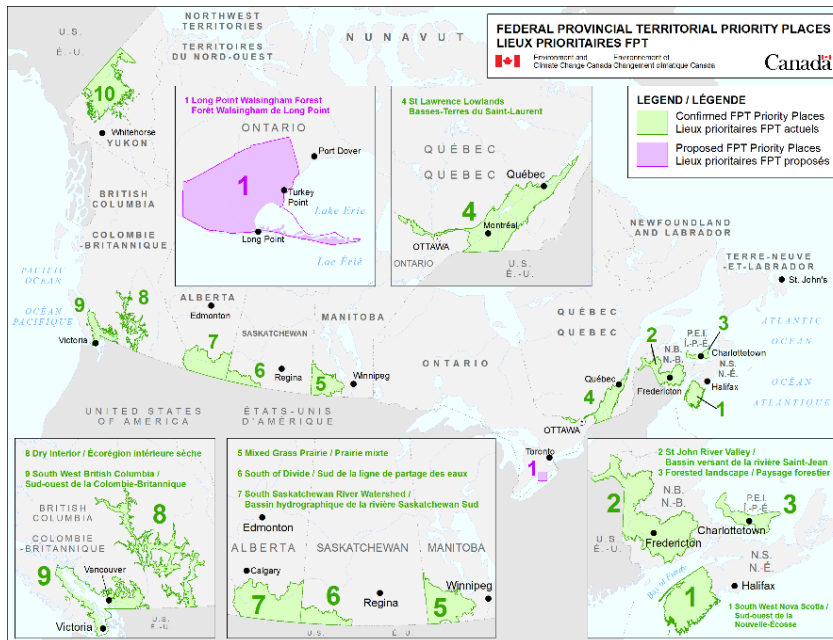
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## Priority Places



## Milestones

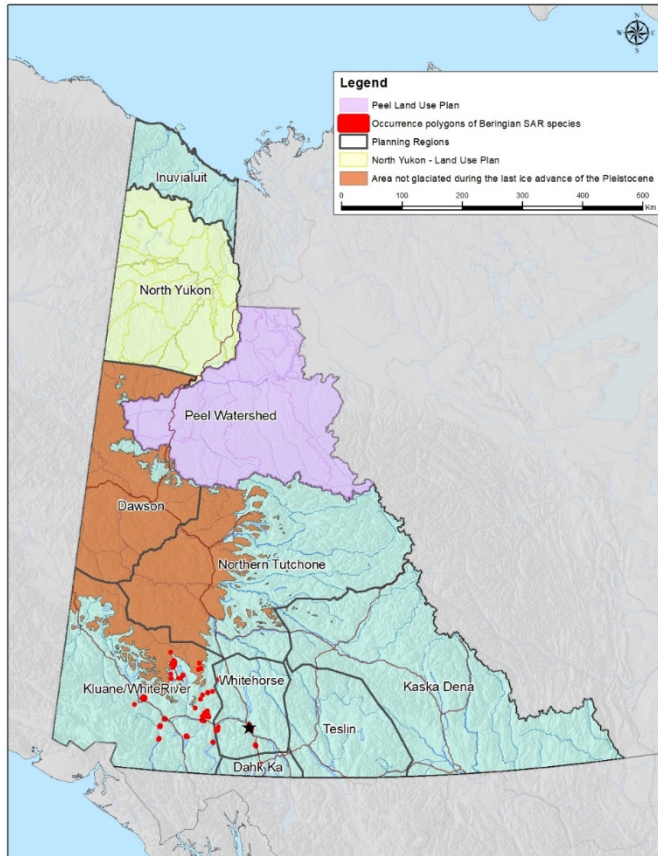
- Governance arrangements
- Engagement
- Collaborative Conservation action planning (targets, strategies and actions)
- Implementation
- Tracking and reporting (adaptive management)

*“A **priority place** may be described as a defined geographic area of high biodiversity value with a recognizable ecological theme and social relevance that may be intuitively identified as a distinct “place” by the people that live there and manage its infrastructure and renewable and non-renewable natural resources.”*



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Why here?



- High biodiversity
- 26 species at risk (8 Beringian)
- Globally unique species
- Overlaps with Dawson Land Use planning
- Active mining and exploration, fishing, hunting and tourism activities

Opportunity to advance conservation efforts by working together (made in the Yukon)



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Species At Risk

English name	Scientific name	Designatable Unit	COSEWIC	SARA	Beringian
Yukon Draba	<i>Draba yukonensis</i>		Endangered	No status	Yes
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>		Endangered	Endangered	No
Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>		Endangered	Endangered	No
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		Threatened	Threatened	No
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		Threatened	Threatened	No
Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Barren-ground population	Threatened	No status	No
Baikal Sedge	<i>Carex sabulosa</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Spiked Saxifrage	<i>Micranthes spicatus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Yukon Podistera	<i>Podistera yukonensis</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Yukon Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum flavum</i>		Special Concern	No status	Yes
Bering Cisco	<i>Coregonus laurettae</i>		Special Concern	No status	Yes
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>		Special Concern	Threatened	No
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>		Special Concern	Threatened	No
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		Special Concern	No status	No
Wood Bison	<i>Bison bison athabasca</i>		Special Concern	Threatened	No
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Western population	Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>	Northern Mountain population	Special Concern	Special Concern*	Yes
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Western population	Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Collared Pika	<i>Ochotona collaris</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Dune Tachinid Fly	<i>Germaria angustata</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis mckayi</i>	<i>mckayi</i> subspecies	Special Concern	No status	Yes
Transverse Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella transversoguttata</i>		Special Concern	No status	No
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex	Not at Risk	Special Concern	No
*Yukon herds fall within the original DU given SAR status of Special Concern; this is a different entity than that recently assessed by COSEWIC					
<b>Color key</b>					
invertebrates					
vertebrates					
plants					
fish					



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Goals

**Short term Goal:** to better understand potential partners, their interests and confirm they want to work together in Yukon South Beringia (YSB)

**Long term Goal:** to develop an Integrated Conservation Action Plan for YSB



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Partners

### List of Priority Place First Nation Partners

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun

Kluane First Nation

Selkirk First Nation

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation

Carcross /Tagish First Nation\*

Kwanlin Dün First Nation\*

Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation\*

Ta'an Kwach'an Council\*

White River First Nation\*

Assembly of First Nations - Yukon Region\*

*\* not active participants*

Others: Council of Yukon First Nations, Guardians - Norma Kassi, various tourism industry organizations

### Organizations established under the Umbrella Final Agreement

Alsek Renewable Resource Council

Dän Keyi Renewable Resources Council

Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board \*

Yukon Land Use Planning Council/ Dawson Regional Planning Commission

### Organizations

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Klondike Placer Miners' Association

Resolve

Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Yukon Chamber of Mines

Yukon Conservation Society

Yukon Government



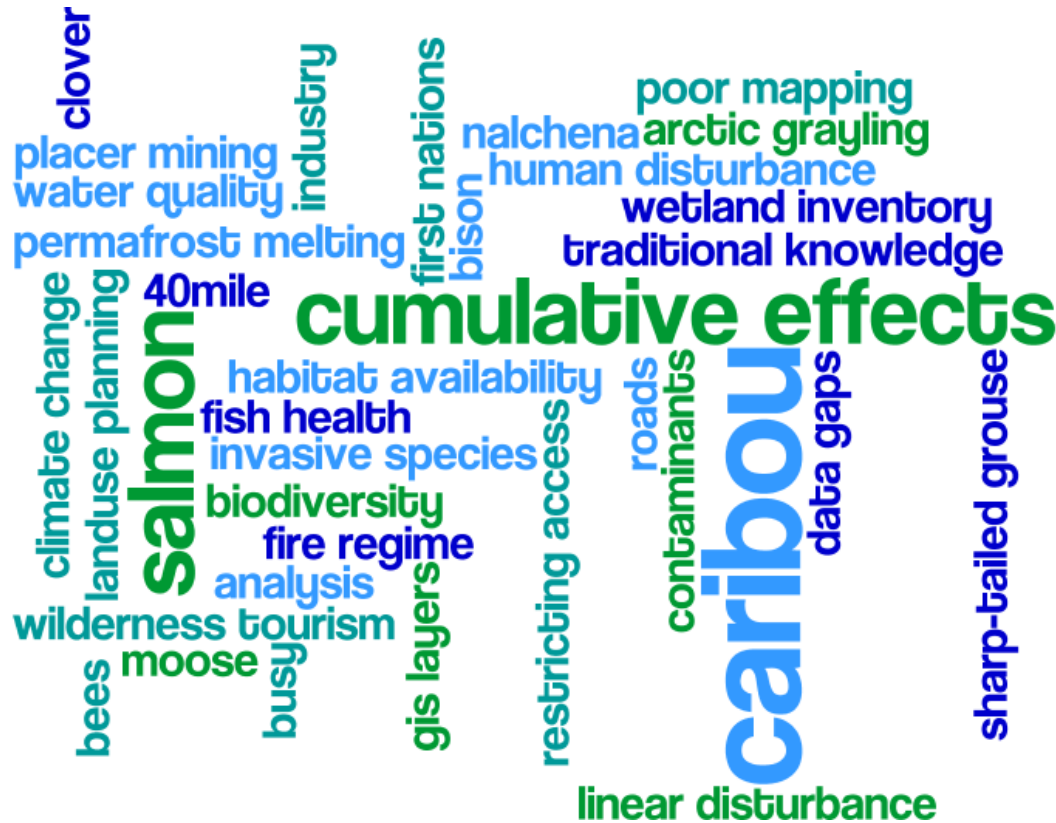
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Partner's Initial Thoughts, Ideas, Issues



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# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Ranked Issues

People- Land - Wildlife- Species	
Issues	Ranking
Degradation of biodiversity from cumulative effects	HIGH
Habitat loss alteration/change and fragmentation	HIGH
Habitat loss on valley bottoms	HIGH
Habitat loss/ impacts (wetlands) – maintaining processes (ecological function)	HIGH
Climate Change	HIGH
Exploration and Development	HIGH – MEDIUM
More effective management of wide ranging species and species at risk that appear healthy in Yukon	MEDIUM - HIGH
Increase access – creation of roads opening up areas	MEDIUM
Restoration of disturbed areas	LOW-MEDIUM
Disturbance to wildlife and species	LOW
Over harvesting	LOW
Effects of contaminants on species	LOW
Species by species based approach	LOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats to rare and endemic species – data gaps – a solution was developed for this issue and it now shows up under habitat loss and climate change – it was not ranked by group on its own - need to discuss if it is an issue</li> </ul>	



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Timeline (2019 - 2021)

**2019: March - December** Shared information, built relationships, explored conservation issues and priorities

**2020: January - February** Verified priorities and developed funding proposals

March-April COVID-19

**May - December**

- Develop Situational Analysis
- Increase Understanding of Adaptive Management Frameworks
- Carry-out Conservation Projects

**2021: January - March**

**Work towards a Draft Integrated Conservation Action Plan**



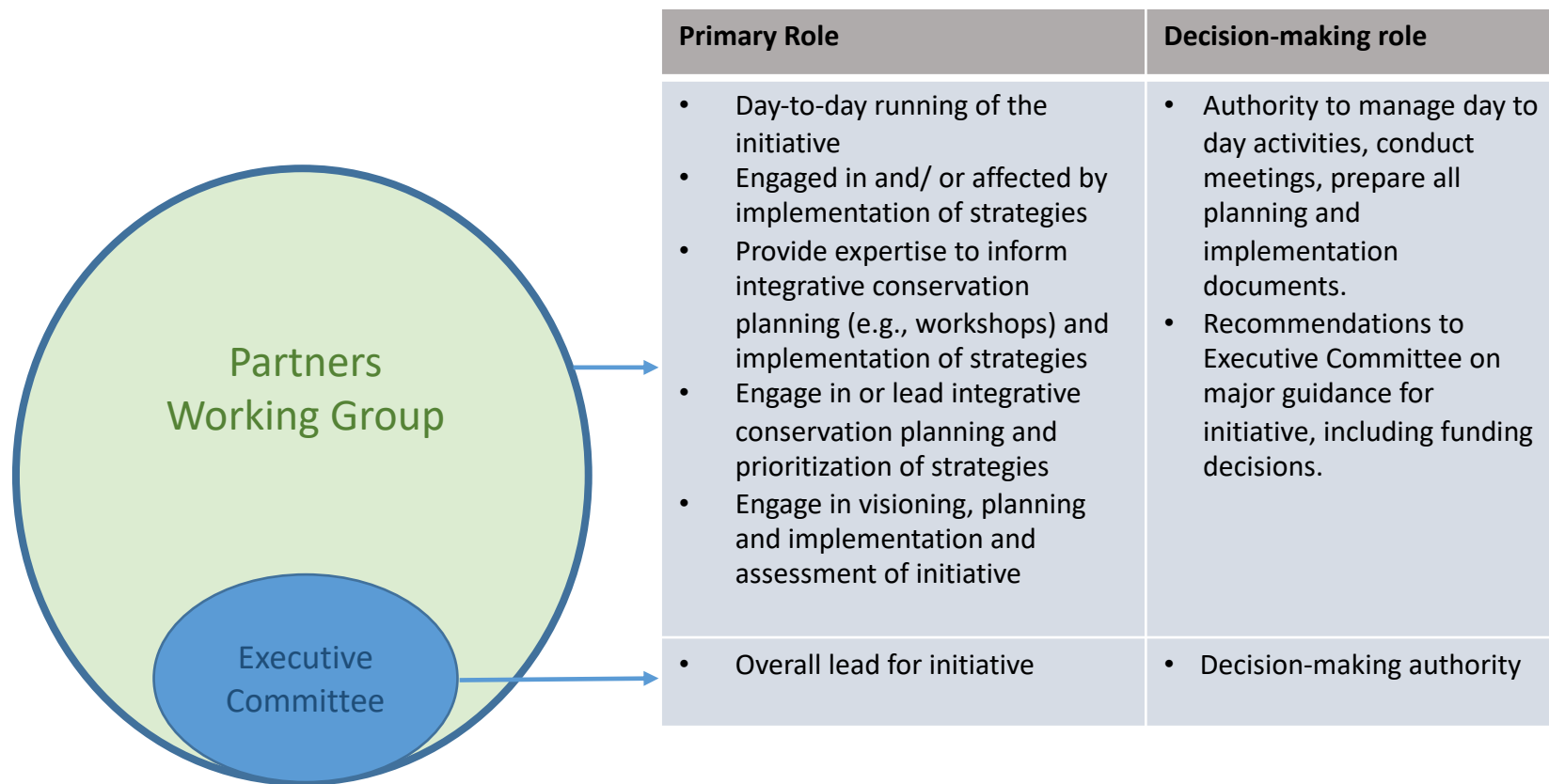
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## Governance (Circle of Involvement - draft)



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Next Steps

- ✓ Continue with Engagement
- ✓ Finalize Governance
- ✓ Develop Situational Analysis
- ✓ Increase Understanding of:
  - Adaptive Management Frameworks
  - Open Standards
  - Healthy Country Planning
- ✓ Carry-out Conservation Projects
- ✓ Share information



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

Màhsi' choo | Màhsi' cho | Sógá sénlá' | Másin cho | Niyę sáw nîdhín | Shàw níthän | Kwànäschtis | Gùnèłchīsh | Gunatłchīsh | Tsin'jì cho | Thank you | Merci

Contact for more information:

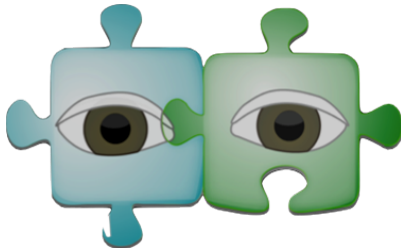
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***Two-Eyed seeing*** - learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing ... and learning to use both these eyes together, for the benefit of all. Two-Eyed Seeing is the Guiding Principle brought into the Integrative Science co-learning journey by [Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall](#) in Fall 2004.



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